



October 2024 Rise & Brew Summary

Thank you for joining us for our October Rise & Brew! This month, we focused on tackling the unique challenges faced by homeless children and youth during November and December. We discussed creative ways to raise awareness and strengthen the network of support.

November: Homelessness Awareness Month

Homelessness Awareness Month aims to raise public understanding of homelessness and youth homelessness. It provides a catapult to engage communities through data, activities, and collaborative efforts.

Let the Numbers Do the Talking

Homelessness affects individuals and families across the nation, including youth. Understanding the scope through national, state, and local data does the talking! Schools, organizations, and the broader community all play essential roles in addressing homelessness.

What Definitions Are Key to Understanding Homelessness?

We discussed the three federal agencies providing homeless support and their varying definitions of homelessness.

- McKinney Vento Homeless Education
- HEARTH: HUD
- RHYA

How Does Trauma Impact Homeless Youth?

Children and youth experiencing homelessness are 4x more likely to experience mental health challenges including:

- Anxiety
- Depression
- PTSD





Trauma can hinder a homeless student's emotional, academic, and social development. Schools can foster trauma-sensitive supports which are critical to support these students both in and outside the classroom.

MythBusters

- Homeless youth do not choose to be homeless.
- Not all homeless individuals live on the streets; many stay in temporary arrangements.
- Families experiencing homelessness may not always stay in shelters due to lack of availability or other barriers.

The Numbers Don't Add Up

- Even families working multiple jobs struggle to afford housing, often facing difficult trade-offs between rent, childcare, food, and healthcare.
- Data from the National Low Income Housing Coalition highlights the wage levels required to afford housing, underscoring the challenges low-income families face.

How Can Communities Build Local Support Systems?

- Collaborative partnerships among schools, agencies, nonprofits, and businesses are essential.
- Sharing data helps identify gaps and needs, while creating local pillars of support in mental health, academic resources, and housing is crucial.

What Seasonal Support is Needed?

Winter and holiday seasons can be particularly difficult for homeless families. Leveraging Homeless Awareness Month can catapult supports for homeless children and youth.

- Use November as a catalyst for needs during holiday months.
- Encourage holiday food donations.
- Encourage holiday gift support.
- Encourage winter clothing support and heater collection in colder climates.
- Encourage individuals, businesses, and organizations to see how they can contribute to supporting homeless youth.
- Maximize awareness campaigns about the benefits of building a network of support.
- Identify community drop-off locations for November and beyond.

